



CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

HEALTH SCIENCES DATABASE SEARCH TIPS

DATABASE	WHY YOU SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T USE IT	SEARCH TIPS/OPERATORS	SEARCH FIELDS	ALERTS?
<p>AMED, Medline, EMBASE, Psycinfo, Ovid EMCARE, Global health, etc. (OVID Platform)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows you to 'map term to subject heading' Contains some citation information Subscription only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Databases on the Ovid platform cover many aspects of health sciences. This includes biomedical and pharmacological literature, nursing, allied health, psychology and psychiatry, global and population health. The strength of this platform lies in its excellent indexing and 'map term to subject heading' feature, which allows you to discover index terms and use them in your search. Databases on this platform are highly subject specific, and for best results need to be search separately. For a broader search it would be useful to use a multidisciplinary database such as Scopus or ProQuest <p>Help menu</p> <p>http://site.ovid.com/site/help/documentation/osp/en/index.htm#CSHID=basic.htm StartTopic=Content/basic.htm SkinName=OvidSP WebHelp Skin</p>	<p>Boolean operators</p> <p>The AND operator lets you retrieve only those records that include all of your search terms.</p> <p>The OR operator lets you retrieve records that contain any of your search terms.</p> <p>Phrase searching is performed by default when two words are next to each other e.g. "community pharmacy".</p> <p>Truncation and wildcards</p> <p>Use * or \$ for truncation or to replace multiple letters anywhere in a word. For example, a search for gene* finds gene, genes, genetics, and generation. ? replaces zero or one characters within a word or at the end of a words.</p> <p>Proximity searching</p> <p>physician adj5 relationship retrieves records that contain words physician and relationship within four words of each other in any order.</p>	<p>Complete list of search fields can be found in top menu next to Advanced search.</p> <p>Title and abstract searching</p> <p>Use syntax .ti,ab. or .tw.</p> <p>Publication type</p> <p>Use syntax .pt.</p> <p>MeSH</p> <p>Use syntax .sh.</p>	Yes
<p>CINAHL Plus with Full Text (EBSCO platform)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows you to 'suggest subject terms' Contains full text (not all content) Subscription only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature Covers a wide range of topics including nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Excellent indexing using CINAHL subject headings and 'suggest subject terms' feature. 	<p>Boolean operators</p> <p>The AND operator lets you retrieve only those records that include all of your search terms.</p> <p>The OR operator lets you retrieve records that contain at least one of your search terms.</p> <p>The NOT operator lets you retrieve results that do not contain specified terms.</p>	<p>Search fields can be selected from drop down menu. E.g.</p> <p>Title and abstract searching</p> <p>Select TI from drop down menu in first search box and enter terms. Repeat search in second search box and choose AB. Combine sets with OR.</p>	Yes

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<p>CINAHL Plus with Full Text cont'd</p>	<p>Help menu</p> <p>http://support.ebsco.com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/help/?int=ehost&lang=en&feature_id=&TOC_ID=Always&SI=0&BU=0&GU=1&PS=0&ver=&dbs=rzh</p>	<p>Phrase searching Use quotation marks to retrieve for exact phrases e.g. "allied health"</p> <p>Truncation and wildcards Use * for truncation or to replace multiple letters anywhere in a word. For example, a search for <i>gene*</i> finds <i>gene, genes, genetics, and generation.</i></p> <p>Use the # wildcard, to find alternate spellings e.g. colo#r to find all records containing color or colour.</p> <p>Proximity searching physician N5 relationship retrieves records that contain the words <i>physician</i> and <i>relationship</i> within five words of each other in either direction.</p>		<p>Yes</p>
<p>SCOPUS (Elsevier)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary • Indexing from other databases (no 'mapping') • Citation database • Subscription only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very large database with excellent coverage for all areas of health sciences. • Excellent author profiles. Authors are automatically assigned an author ID and webpage. Can determine H Index and number of citations to articles. • Indexing database but with many full text links through Curtin Library • Citation information means you can follow articles/ideas forward by who has cited them • Direct export to endnote 	<p>Boolean operators The AND operator lets you retrieve only those records that include all of your search terms. The OR operator lets you retrieve records that contain any of your search terms. The AND NOT operator excludes one term - e.g., lung AND NOT cancer</p> <p>Phrase searching Defaults to AND between search terms – use "phrase searching" e.g. "heart attack" for loose phrase searching or {heart attack} for more an exact phrase.</p>	<p>Command line searching is available in Advanced search.</p> <p>Use functionality in database to add field codes and Boolean operators.</p> <p>Title and abstract searching Click on drop down menu next to Textual Content.</p> <p>Click on + sign next to TITLE-ABS.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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SCOPUS cont'd	<p>Help menu</p> <p>https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/11213/supporthub/scopus/</p>	<p>Truncation and wildcards</p> <p>Use * for truncation or to replace multiple letters anywhere in a word. Example: *tocopherol finds α- tocopherol, γ-tocopherol , δ- tocopherol, tocopherol, etc.</p> <p>? replaces a single character Remember, you do not need a wildcard for singular/plural forms. Scopus uses lemmatization in the search (unless you are using exact phrase) for English words and most scientific terms.</p> <p>Proximity searching</p> <p>Preceding (Pre/n) means the first word must be no more than (n) words away from the second.</p> <p>Within (W/n) means it doesn't matter which word is first. E.g. breast W5 cancer.</p>		
<p>Web of Science (Clarivate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary • Indexing from other databases (no 'mapping') • Citation database • Subscription only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very long backfile – great for older works (pre 1996) • Indexing database but with many full text links through Curtin Library • Citation information means you can follow articles/ ideas forward by who has cited them • Author indexing is very messy – many variations on author 	<p>Boolean operators</p> <p>The AND operator lets you retrieve only those records that include all of your search terms.</p> <p>The OR operator lets you retrieve records that contain any of your search terms.</p> <p>The AND NOT operator excludes one term - e.g., lung AND NOT cancer</p> <p>Defaults to AND between search terms – use “phrase searching”.</p>		Yes

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Web of Science cont'd	<p>Help menu</p> <p>https://images-webofknowledge-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/WOKRS534DR1/help/WOS/contents.html</p>	<p>Truncation and wildcards</p> <p>The asterisk (*) represents any group of characters, including no character.</p> <p>The question mark (?) represents any single character.</p> <p>The dollar sign (\$) represents zero or one character e.g. flavo\$r finds flavor and flavour.</p> <p>Proximity searching</p> <p>NEAR/x e.g. Beverage NEAR/5 bottle finds records containing both beverage and bottle within five words of each other.</p>		
<p>ProQuest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary • Full text • Subscription only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent search functionality • Peer review option • Lots of different resource types • Direct export to endnote • Thesaurus function available <p>Help menu</p> <p>https://search-proquest-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/help/academic/webframe.html?Advanced_Search.html#Advanced_Search.html</p>	<p>Boolean Operators</p> <p>AND — Find documents that contain all of your search terms in the specified (or any) search field.</p> <p>OR — Find documents that contain any of your search terms in the specified (or any) search field.</p> <p>NOT — Find documents that contain the first, but not the second search term in the specified (or any) search field.</p> <p>Phrase searching Use quotation marks e.g. "community pharmacy"</p>	<p>Search fields can be selected from drop down menu on the advanced search page. E.g. 'anywhere', 'anywhere except full text', abstract etc.</p> <p>Title and abstract searching</p> <p>Select TI from drop down menu in first search box and enter terms. Repeat search in second search box and choose AB. Combine sets with OR.</p> <p>Alternatively type directly into search box as follows: ti("breast cancer" or neoplasm) OR ab("breast cancer" or neoplasm)</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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ProQuest cont'd	<p>Help menu</p> <p>https://search-proquest-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/help/academic/webframe.html?Advanced_Search.html#Advanced_Search.html</p>	<p>Truncation and wildcards</p> <p>A single ? wildcard character will match both zero and one character... meaning cat? will return matches on both cat and cats. Similarly, cat?? will return matches on cat, cats, and catch—0, 1, or 2 characters in that example.</p> <p>The truncation character is an asterisk (*). You can use the * in a search query to substitute for up to five characters. For example, a search for farm* will find the terms farm, farms, farmer, and farming. You can include the truncation character within a search term, f*rm, or at the end of a search term, farm*. You cannot include a leading * in your search term. For example, *arm is an invalid search.</p> <p>Proximity searching</p> <p>NEAR/n looks for documents that contain two search terms, in any order, within a specified number of words apart. PRE/n looks for documents that contain one search term that appears within a specified number of words before a second term.</p>	<p>Other available search fields can be found at</p> <p>https://search-proquest-com.dbgw.lis.curtin.edu.au/help/academic/webframe.html?Basic_Search.html#Command_Line_Search.html</p>	

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<p>Google Scholar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great for publications in institutional repositories (like Curtin's e-space) • Useful for theses • Searches over many sources, not just titles in a proprietary database • Set up connectivity with Curtin Library through "settings/library" • Always click into "versions" for access to pdfs <p>Sample searches</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. obesity AND ("herbal medicine" OR plant OR "plant medicinal" OR "medicine traditional") <p>Translated for Google Scholar (obesity obese antiobesity "weight loss" "lose weight") ("traditional medicine" "folk medicine" "Medicinal Plants" "medicinal herbs" "herbal medicine" "plant extracts" "medical anthropology" "herbal therapy" "chinese medicine" "ethnopharmacology")</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. adults AND ("home program" OR "home programme" OR "home exercise program") AND ("systematic review" OR "meta analysis" OR "randomized controlled trial" OR "clinical trial") <p>Translated for Google Scholar ("home (based program programme exercise rehabilitation)") (exercise rehabilitation)(trial review "meta analysis")</p>	<p>Advanced searching in Google Scholar You will need to take a different approach to building search strategies in Google and Google Scholar than in many other databases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truncation/wildcard searching is not supported • Google Scholar has a 256 character limit for searches; Google limits to 150 words • Google and Google Scholar show only the first 1000 results • Nesting terms in parentheses - eg, (science OR technology) AND (british columbia OR alberta) - does not work as it does in other databases • Basically any OR can be replaced with a pipe () that saves you some characters, no spaces are needed around it. NB Pipe key is located underneath the Backspace key. • What you can also do is combine phrases. E.g. "herbal traditional folk medicine therapy". This will search for herbal medicine OR herbal therapy OR traditional medicine OR etc • If you don't use an OR or a pipe, Google Scholar will see it as an AND. • You can use AND between concepts but if you don't have enough characters you can leave it out. 	<p>Yes</p>